

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 1-9 are pending, Claims 1, 4 and 7 having been amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-9 were rejected as being unpatentable over Lim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,574,599, hereinafter "Lim") in view of Tzirkel-Hancock (U.S. Patent No. 5,960,395).

In reply, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 4 and 7 to further clarify why these claims, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are believed to patentably define over the combination of Lim in view of Tzirkel-Hancock.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a communication apparatus that includes, among other things, a program-activating means for confirming that a second word generated by a word-generating means is a predetermined word and for activating a communication program corresponding to the predetermined word.

The program-activating means includes a status detecting means for determining whether a predetermined program is already activated. The program-activating means is also for judging whether to issue a local command that is specific to the predetermined program based on whether the predetermined program is already activated. This feature of the program-activating means, is discussed in the specification at page 27, last paragraph, continuing to the first full paragraph of page 29 (for example). Moreover, the local command is a command that is associated with a specific program, if that program is active. A local command is different than a global command that can be executed at any time without regard to the operational status of the particular program. This is a valuable feature because systems that use this feature are able to operate predetermined programs using local commands that are associated with particular programs only when they are activated. Therefore, a local

command may be reused with different types of programs, without risk of contention (or conflict) problems.

The outstanding Office Action relies on Lim in a manner similar to the Office Action dated July 30, 2003. However, the outstanding Office Action recognizes that Lim does not teach the detecting and determining steps to issue a command based on the status. The outstanding Office Action attempts to cure this deficiency by asserting that Tzirkel-Hancock teaches this feature, citing column 38 line 60 – column 39, line 8.

Tzirkel-Hancock, at the discussion of column 38, line 60 – column 39, line 8, is directed to determining whether a certain program is activated or not. The example given is when an input speech command is input (e.g., “call Tom”) and the “status check” tells the command executor that the user is already talking to Tom. However, this feature is different than that of the claimed program-activating means, which not only checks to determine whether a predetermined program is already activated, but judges whether to issue a local command that is specific to controlling the predetermined program based on whether the predetermined program is already activated. Tzirkel-Hancock does not issue commands that manipulate the predetermined program. Moreover, the device in Tzirkel-Hancock does not describe controlling the predetermined program.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended Claim 1 is directed to a different concept than that either taught or suggested by any combination of Lim in view of Tzirkel-Hancock. As recognized in the outstanding Office Action, Lim is not directed to detecting a program status of a device by way of voice commands. While Tzirkel-Hancock includes a type of status check, it merely checks for conflicts between commands and activated programs. Tzirkel-Hancock does not teach or suggest the manipulation or control of an activated program based on whether it is determined that that program is already activated. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 1 patentably defines

over the asserted combination of Lim and Tzirkel-Hancock. For similar reasons it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-9 (which are of different statutory class and/or scope) also patentably define over the asserted prior art.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-9 as amended is patentably distinguishing over the prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration is therefore requested.

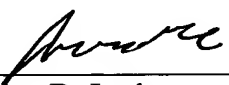
Respectfully submitted,

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